Basic information

1996/2082(DEC) DEC - Discharge procedure	Procedure completed
1995 discharge: EC general budget (section III) **Subject** 8.70.03.07 Previous discharges	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible		Rapporteur	Appointed
CONT	Budgetary Control	WYNN Terence (PSE)	22/10/1996

Committee for opinion		Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG	Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
ECON	Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	PEIJS Karla M.H. (PPE)	30/04/1996
ENER	Research, Technological Development and Energy	ADAM Gordon J. (PSE)	30/05/1996
RELA	External Economic Relations	MOORHOUSE James (PPE)	29/05/1996
REGI	Regional Policy	COSTA NEVES Carlos (ELDR)	04/06/1996
TRAN	Transport and Tourism	CORNELISSEN Petrus A.M. (PPE)	19/12/1996
ENVI	Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	FLORENZ Karl-Heinz (PPE)	17/12/1996
DEVE	Development and Cooperation	KINNOCK Glenys (PSE)	30/10/1996
LIBE	Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs	D'ANCONA Hedy (PSE)	17/12/1996
PECH	Fisheries	LANGENHAGEN Brigitte (PPE)	19/12/1996

	FEMM Women's Rights	GLASE Anne-Karin (PPE)	23/07/1996

Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meetings	Date
	Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	1994	1997-03-17

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
30/04/1996	Non-legislative basic document published	SEC(1996)0421	Summary
24/05/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
17/03/1997	Debate in Council		
07/04/1997	Vote in committee		
07/04/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0120/1997	
09/04/1997	Debate in Parliament		
10/04/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
19/06/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1996/2082(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 101
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/4/07836

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0120/1997 OJ C 132 28.04.1997, p. 0016	07/04/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0154/1997 OJ C 132 28.04.1997, p. 0124-0137	10/04/1997	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0155/1997 OJ C 132 28.04.1997, p. 0124-0137	10/04/1997	

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	06510/1997	17/03/1997	
Document attached to the procedure	06511/1997	17/03/1997	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	SEC(1996)0421	30/04/1996	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(1996)0422	30/04/1996	
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(1996)0424	30/04/1996	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofA	Court of Auditors: opinion, report	N4-0110/1997 OJ C 395 31.12.1996, p. 0005	24/10/1996	
CofA	Court of Auditors: opinion, report	RCC0019/1995 OJ C 340 12.11.1996, p. 0001	24/10/1996	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 1997/0382
OJ L 162 19.06.1997, p. 0029

1995 discharge: EC general budget (section III)

1996/2082(DEC) - 30/04/1996 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: presentation of the revenue and expenditure accounts and the financial statement for the 1995 budget (Section III - Commission).
SUBSTANCE: The first part of the document presents a summary of the Commission utilization of appropriations in 1995 heading by heading. The Commission also gives an account of the implementation of the budget within the framework of the financial perspective. It notes that the 1995 budget procedure is the first to have taken place completely within the framework of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 29 October 1993 and stresses that no proposal for adjustment of the financial perspective to the implementation conditions (paragraph 10 of the Agreement) was submitted for that year, in particular because the previous programming of the structural funds covered the period 1988-1993 and had therefore been completed. However, 1995 should have been marked by the enlargement, implying an adjustment of the financial framework in force at two levels: - a technical adjustment of the financial perspective to the trend in GNP and the prices of the Community of 12: this adjustment was made in February 1994 on the basis of the latest

economic forecasts then available and which were less favourable than those adopted for the establishment of the initial financial perspective at the Edinburgh Council. Apart from the unfavourable economic context the 1995 budgetary procedure was affected by the delay in the ratification by the Member States of the new decision on own resources. As it was not possible for the decision to enter into force before the end of 1994 the ceiling on own resources was kept at 1.20% of GNP and the 1995 budget had to be adopted within this limit; - an adjustment directly related to the new resources of the enlarged Community: the ceilings of the perspective were first raised for the period 1995-1999 to take account of the direct needs caused by enlargement (each heading had an average increase seeking to cover the three new Member States). At the same time the ceilings for headings 2 and 3 were increased to meet specific needs: Heading 2: increase of ECU 200 m for Community initiatives in order to allow the financing of the Peace Programme for Northern Ireland; Heading 3: increase of ECU 400m to cover financing of the programme for the modernization of the textile and clothing industry in Portugal. In conclusion, in the financial perspective of the enlarged Community, expressed in 1995 prices, the total ceiling of payment appropriations for 1995 was set at 1.20% of GNP.

1995 discharge: EC general budget (section III)

1996/2082(DEC) - 10/04/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted the report by Mr Terence WYNN (PSE, UK) in which it gave discharge to the Commission for the 1995 budget, while noting that final checks still had to be made of EAGGF expenditure. It therefore reserved the right to re-examine the amounts of the EAGGF Guarantee section following the clearance of accounts decision. In the resolution which accompanied the proposal for a decision on the discharge Parliament stressed the good cooperation between the Commission, Parliament and the Court of Auditors but regretted the lack of constructive dialogue with the Council. At the same time the European Parliament noted that the Statement of Assurance (DAS) drawn up by the Court of Auditors revealed the progress made by the Commission with regard to operations involving commitment appropriations and revenue entered. However, much remained to be done to correct the very high number of formal and substantial errors concerning the utilization of commitment appropriations. The Court of Auditors was invited to make an even more in-depth analysis by sector of expenditure and to draw up - possibly - statements of assurance on the expenditure made by the various Member States in collaboration with the national audit authorities. With regard to own resources, the European Parliament called for a strengthening of national control systems taking into account the recommendations of the European Parliament's Temporary Committee of Inquiry into the Community Transit System. The Court of Auditors was called on to check the reliability and exhaustiveness of the VAT own resource assessment base and the Commission was called on to develop an appropriate statistical and mathematical tool to ensure the reliability of the GNP aggregates of the Member States which provide the basis for the Community's finances. Parliament also called on the Commission to submit to it a proposal seeking to improve the effectiveness of the administrations of the Member States for the recovery of sums due to the Community budget. With regard to the different categories of expenditure the European Parliament noted that even after the reform of the CAP the EAGGF Guarantee section expenditure (ECU 34.5 billion for 1995) represented 52% of all payments. The plenary did not however follow the rapporteur's proposals with regard to the cereals sector. While the report adopted in the Committee on Budgetary Control called for expenditure on the cereals sector to be reduced to 1992 levels, Parliament considered that the direct aids instituted gradually between 1992 and 1996 sought to compensate for the fall in prices and that for the 1995 financial year the adjustment of the scheme would have to bring about a temporary increase in expenditure (although limited because the increase in expenditure remained lower than 11% of the budgetary forecasts). Parliament reiterated that the obligations deriving from the decisions of the 1992 Edinburgh European Council must be observed more fully and that it was necessary to continue to respect the agricultural guideline. In the olive oil sector the Community should use all the controls available by the legislation in force to curb expenditure rather than deferring resolution of the problem to a future COM in this sector. It drew attention to its resolution of 21 April 1993 in which it called on the Commission to suspend payments for olive oil where Member States had not ensured satisfactory controls within an appropriate deadline. Also it was necessary to improve the system of integrated control for sheep and goats (a sector where premiums amounted to ECU 2 billion) by establishing an identification system for the animals similar to that provided for bovine animals. It also called on the Court of Auditors to examine the effectiveness of the integrated control system in general. Measures were also needed to combat fraud in relation to aid for cotton and to reconsider whether there was still a need to continue the Community grants to whisky producers (ECU 40 m. a year). Stricter controls were also necessary in the fisheries sector and in relation to the intensive pig producers. With regard to the clearance of accounts, it noted that the correction amounts to be set by the Commission should be based exclusively on the level of actual losses and not in relation to other criteria. In this context it should not be forgotten that the EAGGF Guarantee section still represented 36% of the errors involving an amount of over ECU 1.5 billion. It also asked the Commission to check the EAGGF appropriations intended for the prevention of BSE. In the structural funds sector the utilization of the appropriations available was considered to be unsatisfactory. The rate of substantial errors was significantly higher than the average for budget payments as a whole. Parliament asked the Commission to propose solutions to the programming problems, including the ex-ante and ex-post evaluation. The Commission was also called on to present its accounting records in such a way as to facilitate the monitoring activity of the EP and to make proposals for the recovery of sums unduly paid. The European Parliament should be kept informed of all the stages of implementation and the whole project. The Court of Auditors was invited to incorporate in its annual report a chapter covering the Union's internal policies as a whole with particular reference to the RTD sector. With regard to lending and borrowing activities Parliament called on the Commission to make an audit of the EIF (European Investment Fund). With regard to the external policy areas, Parliament concentrated its comments on the implementation of the appropriations for the PHARE and TACIS programmes. With regard to the former it deplored the lack of clear political vision on the part of the Commission either as to its effectiveness or as to its role in the preparation of the CEEC over the last six years and a strategy for the future. With regard to TACIS, the European Parliament supported the intention to concentrate activities on two sectors of intervention per beneficiary country but was also critical of the significant delays between the commitment of the amounts and the signing of contracts. Finally it called, as a matter of priority, for the setting up of a Task Force within the Commission to deal with the nuclear safety programmes (ECU 580 million made available since 1990; only 140 had been disbursed at the end of 1995). Lastly on the Common Foreign and Security Policy following the special reports by the Court of Auditors (Mostar/Palestine) it called for greater transparency to allow the European Parliament to carry out its monitoring tasks.